



Parks and Recreation Department  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at the Boards and Commissions Conference Room, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Room 1101.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Linda Guerrero, Board Vice-Chair Danette Chimenti, Jeff Francell, Sara Marler, Marilyn Bostick and Jane Rivera.

Board Members Absent: Mark Vane

Staff Members Present: Sara Hensley, Stuart Strong, Farhad Madani, Ricardo Soliz, Chris Yanez, and Tino Garcia.

A. Meeting called to order

Board Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Rivera moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Chimenti. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Citizen Communication

1. Dorothy Richter requested Board support for either a handicap or a 30 minute sign to be posted in the area of the gazebo restrooms near the warehouse. The two tow-away signs currently posted are too far apart.

Bill Hale, representing three marinas in Lake Travis, provided photos and site plans for each of the marinas. All three marinas plan to re-develop and will seek a variance to the 25 percent impervious cover rule. They will be coming before the Board within the next few months.

Michael Casias, Waterfront Overlay Task Force member, reported on four of the recommendations. They include: 1) the re-incorporation of the Town Lake Corridor Study; 2) adoption of the Town Lake Park Comprehension Plan; 3) re-inserting bonus provisions back into the ordinance; and 4) the extension of the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance plan further to the east.

## D. Briefs

Note: Board Chair Guerrero announced that the Waterfront Overlay Task Force recommendations brief would be moved to the April, 2009 meeting to be discussed as an action item.

### 2. Old Bakery Emporium and Guild –

Doug Matthews, former Bakery and Emporium Manager, summarized a brief history of the Bakery. He reported that in 1980 the Texas Legislature deeded the building to the City of Austin. In 1980, the Bakery underwent a project restoration and in 1990 the City of Austin took over the management of the Bakery. Currently the Bakery has 253 consigners and hundreds of volunteers. The Old Bakery Guild, which is the fund raising arm, has raised funds for parking, refrigeration, and displays.

### 3. SpringScape at Palm Park.

Charlie McCabe, Austin Parks Foundation, introduced John Reddy, who is proposing to bring a Speigel performance at Palm Park. His plan is to bring two Spigel tents (tents constructed of teak, velvet, canvas, brocade, stain glass and mirrors) to stage the speigel performance season at the park. The performances, held daily throughout the week, will include a cabaret burlesque circus, performances by rock bands and family entertainment. Since the tents arrive prior to the start of the performance session, they could also be used as a venue to house events for SXSW. Mr. Reddy indicated that one of their goals is to improve the condition of the park, by possibly constructing a stone patio around the pool and re-vegetating areas around the park. Since tickets would be sold for each of the performances, every ticket sold would have a small park fee attached to it. Director Hensley suggested that the funds could be used to fund a position specifically dedicated to the park. Board Chair Guerrero requested that the neighborhood groups be made aware of the pending use of the park.

### 4. Update on Anti-entrapment covers for City pools.

Farhad Madani, Assistant Director, updated the Board on the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act which made mandatory federal regulations for entrapment avoidance in pools and spas. This law now requires replacing drain covers to unblockable types and to add a shut off switch on single drain pools. Twenty one (21) pools have already been converted, four (4) have been completed but need inspection, four (4) are currently in process and three (3) need complete fabrication. All pools will be open by the start season.

5. Update on Nicholas Dawson Park – Sharon Hamilton, Austin Clean Water Program, reported on the timeline for the completion of park construction. All hand mining and boring, including finishing setting manholes and grouting the lines inside all the tunnels, should be completed by April 11, 2009. Restoration work will follow. The current planned completion date is set for April 15, 2009.

E. New Business and Action Items

6. Make a recommendation to City Council regarding the temporary use of parkland for UT Reclaimed Water Transmission Main.

Dan Pederson, Austin Water Utility, reported that a 24" reclaimed water main is being constructed through the University of Texas and ultimately to downtown. The construction will require a staging area in the Hancock Golf Course. The total staging requested is 30,865 square feet and will be used for equipment and materials to support the construction of the reclaimed water main. The Utility has agreed to provide mitigation and restoring the tract to the original condition. Board Chair Guerrero requested that a presentation be made to the neighborhood association and to get a letter of approval prior for the action going to the Council. Board Member Francell moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the use of parkland for the extension of Westgate Boulevard.

Annie Van Zant, Public Works Department, reported on a design of a roadway that would connect William Cannon Drive and Slaughter Lane. The roadway will include a bicycle lane and sidewalk for public transportation purposes. Public Works is requesting permanent use of parkland totaling 4, 218 sq. ft. of space (approximately 2% of the total parkland). Questions regarding the value of the land and the proposed future use of the land were addressed by Ms. Zant. Board Member Francell moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Rivera. Motion carried 6-0.

8. Make a recommendation to City Council regarding the Downtown Tunnel.

Lora Teed, Public Work Department, reported that the Downtown Wastewater Tunnel will require the temporary and permanent use of parkland at 5 parcels, which will impact parkland at Sand Beach Preserve, Butler Shores, Auditorium Shores, Festival Beach and Krieg Fields. The project will require the closure of one softball field at Krieg but will enable the construction of two multi-purpose fields at Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River park (funding not yet identified). Also, mitigation dollars will be used for the installation of lighting for volleyball fields. The project is scheduled to start in December 2009 and will take approximately 2 ½ years to complete. Board Member Francell moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Board Member Bostick. Motion carried 6-0.

## F. Director's Report

Director Hensley reported that the department is in the process of developing a long range plan and would like the Board Members to assist in kicking off each of the community meetings. A list was distributed so each of the members could sign up. The meetings are scheduled April 14, 16, 21 22, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Director Hensley indicated that we have established a web site for citizens to provide comments if they cannot attend the meetings.

Two inter-local agreements have been formalized with AISD for Butler Fields I and II and with Huston-Tillotson University for Downs Field. Both agreements will assist in the maintenance and usage of the fields.

The Sparky Park re-dedication will be held Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and the Zilker Park Botanical Gardens will be celebrating its 52 year anniversary the same day.

The Department is also working with the Austin Parks Foundation to come up with recommendations for criteria for dog parks including goals, proximity to bodies of water and impacts to the environment. A stakeholder meeting will be held to discuss these issues. Director Hensley also reported on the cost of paying for utilities for the use of our fields by public and private entities.

## G. Items from the Board

Board Chair Guerrero reported that she has invited the Scientific Advisory Committee to join the joint E/Board-Parks Board to assist with issues involving the pool. Dr. Tom Wilcox has agreed to join the group.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.